

Mr. Speaker, It is important that the United States continue dialogue with the Indian government at this time. We must urge the Indian government to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty immediately, without conditions. By signing the treaty, India could assume leadership on international negotiations on capping the accumulation of weapons-grade fissile terms.

It is also important that we not encourage an arms buildup in south Asia. I would urge Members of this body to oppose any effort to repeal the Pressler amendment. Repeal of the Pressler amendment would allow for the delivery of 26 F-16 jet fighters to Pakistan.

U.S. national security adviser Sandy Berger confirmed that the delivery of fighter jets was one of the proposals made to the Pakistan government recently to prevent them from conducting their own nuclear tests, and this is very bad policy. The repeal of the Pressler amendment and the delivery of the F-16 fighters would only increase tension within the region. The U.S. cannot help bring peace to south Asia if it continues to fuel an arms race in that region.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge President Clinton to continue with his plans to visit India later this year. It has been over 20 years since an American President has visited India. The President has not said he would cancel the trip, but I suppose there is some doubt about that. The President's trip would accelerate negotiations and dialogue on nuclear nonproliferation. Furthermore, it would show to the Indian people that the United States wishes to maintain a long-term relationship with India.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to continue our dialogue with India and try to get India involved in signing the test ban treaty and trying to promote peace in south Asia. Let us move forward. Let us proceed with a dialogue. Let us not move backwards with our relations with India. We have come a long way, and this is the time now to show there can be restraint on both sides.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT TO STOP NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, India, the world's largest democracy, detonated five nuclear weapons tests last week in the name of national security. This shocked the world and demonstrated in graphic fashion the perceived unfairness and inherent weakness of the international nuclear nonproliferation system now in place.

We can expect Pakistan to reciprocate and go nuclear, and I would not be surprised to see other countries like North Korea, Iran and Libya to resume their nuclear programs.

Mr. Speaker, this madness and insane rush towards nuclear proliferation is inevitable as long as we continue to perpetuate a 24-year make-believe situation that India could not explode a nuclear bomb, and 28 years of a highly discriminatory and one-sided world of nuclear haves and have-nots. If we are serious about stopping nuclear proliferation, the United States and the nuclear powers must take the first step and commit to a concrete timetable for nuclear disarmament and a verification process.

One of America's finest military officers, former Commander of the U.S. Strategic Command General Lee Butler, said,

Proliferation cannot be contained in a world where a handful of self-appointed nations both arrogate to themselves the privilege of owning nuclear weapons and extol the ultimate security assurance they assert such weapons convey. A world free of the threat of nuclear weapons is necessarily a world devoid of nuclear weapons. The United States should make unequivocal its commitment to the elimination of nuclear arsenals and take the lead in setting an agenda for moving forthrightly toward that objective.

Mr. Speaker, at this important time of peace, we should pay close attention to General Butler's concerns and foresight.

Mr. Speaker, whether we like it or not, India is now an official member of the so-called "Nuclear Club." But do not blame India for this. Blame our one-sided and faulty policy towards nuclear nonproliferation.

REAUTHORIZE THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand a sampling of hundreds of plates that I have received from senior citizens in my district when I visited them at centers or they have mailed them to me. The plates make a point. They are really about the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. This act has not been reauthorized now for more than 2 years.

For 30 years, this act has provided the provisions for food, for health care and for a number of services that are very, very important to senior citizens. It allows them to have a quality of life in their homes, without which they would not have.

So I urge our colleagues, during the month of May, which is Senior Citizens Month, to make sure that they consider the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

We should not be feeding our senior citizens on paper plates. We really should be feeding them on fine China, because they have given their life for the betterment of their communities.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, from whom we have come and to whom we belong, we are grateful for all Your blessings, for family and friends and colleagues, for freedom and opportunity, for the responsibilities we have as citizens.

We pray, O God, that we will be steadfast custodians of the resources of the land and use our time, talents and treasure in ways that promote the noble ideals that we hold dear. We especially pray for those who work for understanding and reconciliation among all peoples. May we see Your vision, gracious God, of a time when our communities and the world will enjoy a bounty of peace.

And now may Your blessing, O God, that is new every morning, be with us this day and evermore. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.